Formation of Bodo Territorial Council area

3057. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the decision taken by Government in regard to the formation of Bodo Territorial Council (BTC) area; and

(b) the safeguards which are proposed in BTC Areas with respect to the political, socio-economic, cultural, land and language rights of Non-Bodos?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Home Affairs have informed that the tripartite peace talks involving the representatives of the Central Government, the Government of Assam and the Bodo Liberation Tiger are continuing for formation of Bodo Territorial Council. However, the Government is committed to protect the democratic alrights and the socio-economic interest of all the sections of the society.

Measures Taken under'the National Housing and Habitat Policy, 1998

3058. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the National Housing and Habitat Policy, 1998, a number of positive policy measures have been initiated on the financial, fiscal and legislative fronts;

(b) if so, whether these are not adequate to fulfil the Budget 2000-2001 vision target of "Housing for AH' to be realised by the year 2010;

(c) if so, the main reasons for not taking adequate steps in this regard; and

(d) the latest position about these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Housing and Habitat Policy, 1998 envisages Government's role as an enablcr rather than builder. Government aims to create an enabling environment by removing the legal, regulatory, technical, and financial constraints facing the housing sector. The State Governments are required to draw their own action plans to address the housing problems in their States. As a follow-up of the National Housing and Habitat Policy, 1998, several steps have been taken as given in Statement (See below).

(b) to (d) Housing is a State subject. The Government through the National Agenda for Governance have declared Housing for All as a priority area and has decided to focus on the housing needs of citizens in general and that of the poor and the deprived in particular. Towards this end, the Agenda sets a target of consturction of additional 2 million houses (7 lakh in Urban areas and 13 lakh in Rural areas) every year through State Government agencies on a demand-driven approach. The steps taken by the Government to fulfil the target of 'Housing for All' arc given in Statement II.

Statement

Steps taken As a follow up of the National Housing and Habitat Policy, 1998.

(i) Fiscal incentives under the Income Tax Act and in Customs and Excise duties are available.

(ii) Legal reforms have been initiated to facilitate housing. The Urban Land Ceiling Act has been repealed. Model Rent Control Legislation has been prepared and circulated among State Governments for its adoption. States have also been advised to amend town planning and building laws to encourage housing. This Ministry is also pursuing amendments to foreclosure laws to facilitate easy foreclosure and for developing a secondary mortgage market.

(iii) The Government, through greater interaction with the National Housing Bank and Housing Finance Institutions is seeking

to ensure greater private sector participation. Government is seeking to strengthen the cooperative sector through the National Cooperative Housing Federation.

(iv) Government is also seeking to give a boost to housing through the propagation of appropriate cost effective and environment friendly technology.

(v) The Central Government has also launched a new scheme titled 'Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana' (VAMBAY) for providing housing and upgradation of existing housing for the below-poverty line families in urban slums with a component for construction of community toilets.

Mobilisation of resources for projects under IDSMT scheme

3059. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of the total 3870 projects approved under the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme during the decade 1992-2001, only 812 projects were completed;

(b) whether to make the scheme self-sustaining, Government had envisaged State Urban/Municipal development funds and revolving funds;

(c) if so, whether these resources were mobilised and if so, to what extent;

(d) whether Government failed to raise institutional finance for the project and also in enlisting private participation in the scheme; and

(e) to what extent urban migration has been arrested during the last decade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) As per available information,